

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ZONING COMMISSION HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Zoning Commission Home Rule Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia the authority to appoint all members of the D.C. Zoning Commission (Commission). Currently, the Commission consists of two federal officials (the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) and the Director of the National Park Service (NPS), or their designees), and three mayoral appointees, subject to D.C. Council approval. The federal officials are members even though the Commission has no authority over federal property.

Land use is a quintessential local matter in our country. Despite the D.C. Home Rule Act, which gave the District jurisdiction over its local matters, 40 percent of the members of the Commission are federal officials, who are unaccountable to the more than 700,000 residents who live in the District. The federal government would lose nothing as a result of this bill because the federal government's land-use interests in the nation's capital are protected by federal law and federal agencies.

The Commission creates the zoning maps and regulations, which must "not be inconsistent with the comprehensive plan for the national capital." The mayor is responsible for the local elements of the comprehensive plan, subject to Council approval. The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), which is the central federal planning agency for the federal government in D.C. and approves federal projects here, is responsible for the federal elements of the comprehensive plan. This bill would not alter the comprehensive plan process or the authority of NCPC and the Commission.

This bill would immediately remove the AOC and the Director of the NPS from the Commission, and the Commission would, at least initially, consist solely of the three mayoral appointees. The District would have the authority to reconstitute the membership of the Commission through local legislation.

This is an important step to increase home rule for the District, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

FAREWELL TO MAJOR BRITTANY WEIGHTMAN

HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN

OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Mr. BROWN. Madam Speaker, today I honor a superb leader, liaison and soldier for her tireless commitment to the United States Army which include three years of service with the Army Office of the Legislative Liaison. During 2019, Major Brittany Weightman served in the Washington office of the Fourth Congressional District of Maryland and went on to serve as an Army Legislative Liaison in the Senate. As Major Brittany Weightman prepares to go to the Defense Programs Support

Activity, in Elkridge, Maryland, I believe it is fitting to recognize her dedication to fostering the relationship between the U.S. Army and Congress.

Major Weightman was essential to the office. She worked to solidify important legislation in the National Defense Authorization Act, proved invaluable in educating Members and staff on Army combat systems, modernization programs, and policy initiatives.

Major Weightman has deployed three times: twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan. She is the recipient of the multiple Bronze Star Medals, Combat Action Badge, Meritorious Service Medals, and many other deserved awards.

I am thankful for her commitment to America and this Chamber will feel Major Weightman's absence. I join many past and present Members of Congress in my gratitude and appreciation to Major Weightman for her outstanding leadership and unwavering support.

HONORING JEFFREY J. JACOBSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior Master Sergeant Jeffrey Jacobson, who had an accomplished military career in the United States Air Force and was an upstanding community member in California's 5th Congressional District.

Born in Vallejo, Calif. and raised in Napa, California, Senior Master Sergeant Jacobson rooted himself in bettering our community from the start. After graduating from Napa High School in 1984, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and served for 26 years, retiring in 2011 as the First Sergeant of the 48th Security Forces Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, England. In addition to serving overseas in multiple countries, he pursued a degree in criminal justice at Minot State University and then a Master of Arts in adult education from Central Michigan University.

Senior Master Sergeant Jacobson's service can only be described as that of a true American patriot. In his deployments to Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Afghanistan, he supported Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He was best described as being rooted in the Air Force's core values of "Integrity first, Service before self, and Excellence in all we do." For his outstanding character and strong leadership, he was named the 31st Fighter Wing and the United States Air Forces in Europe First Sergeant of the Year for 2005, and the 48th Fighter Wing First Sergeant of the Year for 2009.

After serving in the military, Senior Master Sergeant Jacobson was a devoted educator in retirement, and an incredibly loving family man. He founded Heritage High School's Air Force Junior ROTC Program in Brentwood, California, where he served as the Aerospace Science Instructor. He also served as Post Commander of Karl H. Kreh Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1123 and supported the Veterans Home in Yountville, California. He is survived by his two daughters, Elizabeth and Rebecca, and life partner, Charlein, for whom he was a supportive and loving family member.

Madam Speaker, Sergeant Jacobson was a larger-than-life leader in the community, in the military, and in the classroom. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor his life here today.

HONORING RAY DiPASQUALE AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS ROLE AS PRESIDENT OF CLINTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ray DiPasquale at the conclusion of his role as president of Clinton Community College.

President DiPasquale has dedicated his long and distinguished career to higher education. Before coming to Clinton Community College, he previously served as president of the Community College of Rhode Island and held positions at the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education, the SUNY College at Brockport, Springfield Technical Community College, and Middlesex Community College. After a nationwide search, he was selected as the new president of Massasoit Community College, where he will work following his departure from the Clinton Community College.

President DiPasquale has been with Clinton Community College since 2016, where he oversaw \$28 million of campus renovations and the creation of the Institute for Advanced Manufacturing, both of which will benefit students at the college for years to come. The North Country is proud of the work he has done for Clinton Community College throughout his over four years of service and are grateful for the strong partnerships and friendships he developed with the local community.

President DiPasquale has shown exemplary dedication to the students and faculty at Clinton Community College and has represented the North Country well. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I would like to congratulate president DiPasquale for his contributions to the college and the community. I wish him the best of luck as he takes on his new role.

CELEBRATING THE 59TH ANNUAL EAST COAST SURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 59th anniversary of Virginia Beach's own East Coast Surfing Championships (ECSC). After successfully holding its 2020 competition with safety guidelines in place, the ECSC is now the longest-running surfing championship in the world.

The ECSC was founded in 1963 by the Virginia Beach Jaycees, a leadership training and community involvement organization dedicated to empowering young people. Every year, the ECSC invites surfers from across the United

States and around the globe to compete to become the Champion of the Atlantic Coast. The event has steadily grown over the years and now brings a host of festivities to the Virginia Beach oceanfront, such as live music, skating, and beach volleyball.

It is an honor to celebrate the long-running success of the ECSC, a staple in our Coastal Virginia community. I am grateful for the ECSC's significant contributions to our local economy and culture, and I wish the competition and all its participants the best of luck in this year's event.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
SPEERS BOROUGH MAYOR WIL-
LIAM LEE

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Speers Borough Mayor William "Bill" Lee, who passed away on December 18, 2020, at the age of 75. As a lifetime resident of the Mon-Valley, Bill will always be remembered for his commitment to his community, region, and country.

After graduating from California State College in 1967, Bill's amiability led him to a career in sales and in 1980, he joined his cousins at Lee Supply Company. With their rollout of HDPE pipe in the 1970s, Lee Supply Co. had become one of the largest suppliers of pipe and pumping systems for the eastern United States. As environmental sales manager, he was fondly known as "Land Fill Bill." He retired in 2013 but remained active to mentor the next generation and represent Lee Supply Co. at trade shows.

Throughout his life, Mayor Lee's dedication to his community was clear. He served on the Mon Valley Progress Council, Charleroi Area Board of Education, the Water Authority Board of Charleroi and as chairman of the Charleroi Regional Police Department. Most remarkably, Bill served as Speers Borough mayor for more than twenty years.

Beyond public service, Bill was a pillar of his community. At St. Andrew of the Apostle, his booming voice was the first to lead parishioners in song. As the president of the Mon Valley Ancient Order of Hibernians, he sang his way through 40 years at the Pittsburgh St. Patrick Day parades, receiving many awards for singing "Molly Malone." Bill was also well known for his impromptu but enthusiastic renditions of "God Bless America." As a Meals on Wheels delivery man, he treated everyone with dignity and made their week brighter.

Madam Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I recognize the loss of Mayor William "Bill" Lee. Bill's outstanding legacy of service will have a lasting impact and he will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and community.

COMMEMORATING 56TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS
ACT OF 1965

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today not just to commemorate the landmark achievement of 56 years ago but to inform our colleagues and the nation of the need to redouble and rededicate our efforts to the work that remains to be done to protect the right of all Americans to vote free from discrimination and the injustices that prevent them from exercising this most fundamental right of citizenship.

On August 6, 1965, in the rotunda of the Capitol and in the presence of such luminaries as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Roy Wilkins of the NAACP; Whitney Young of the National Urban League; James Foreman of the Congress of Racial Equality; A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; John Lewis of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee; Senators Robert Kennedy, Hubert Humphrey, and Everett Dirksen; President Johnson addressed the nation before signing the Voting Rights Act:

"The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men."

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was critical to preventing brazen voter discrimination violations that historically left millions of African Americans disenfranchised. In 1940, for example, there were less than 30,000 African Americans registered to vote in Texas and only about 3 percent of African Americans living in the south were registered to vote. Poll taxes, literacy tests, and threats of violence were the major causes of these racially discriminatory results. After passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, which prohibited these discriminatory practices, registration and electoral participation steadily increased to the point that by 2012, more than 1.2 million African Americans living in Texas were registered to vote.

In 1964, the year before the Voting Rights Act became law, there were approximately 300 African Americans in public office, including just three in Congress. Few, if any, African Americans held elective office anywhere in the south. Because of the Voting Rights Act, today there are more than 9,100 black elected officials, including 46 members of Congress, the largest number ever. Because of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on this day 53 years ago, I stand before you as the first African American woman Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Madam Speaker, the Voting Rights Act opened the political process for many of the approximately 6,000 Hispanic public officials that have been elected and appointed nationwide, including more than 275 at the state or federal level, 32 of whom serve in Congress. Native Americans, Asians, and others who have historically encountered harsh barriers to full political participation also have benefited

greatly. The crown jewel of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is Section 5, which requires that states and localities with a chronic record of discrimination in voting practices secure federal approval before making any changes to voting processes. Section 5 protects minority voting rights where voter discrimination has historically been the worst.

Since 1982, Section 5 has stopped more than 1,000 discriminatory voting changes in their tracks, including 107 discriminatory changes right here in Texas. And it is a source of eternal pride to all of us in Houston that in pursuit of extending the full measure of citizenship to all Americans, in 1975 Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who also represented this historic 18th Congressional District of Texas, introduced, and the Congress adopted, what are now Sections 4(f)(3) and 4(f)(4) of the Voting Rights Act, which extended the protections of Section 4(a) and Section 5 to language minorities. During the floor debate on the 1975 reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, Congresswoman Jordan explained why this reform was needed:

"There are Mexican-American people in the State of Texas who have been denied the right to vote; who have been impeded in their efforts to register and vote; who have not had encouragement from those election officials because they are brown people.

"So, the state of Texas, if we approve this measure, would be brought within the coverage of this Act for the first time."

When it comes to extending and protecting the precious right to vote, the Lone Star State, the home state of Lyndon Johnson and Barbara Jordan, can be the leading state in the Union, one that sets the example for the nation. But to realize that future, we must turn from and not return to the dark days of the past. We must remain ever vigilant and oppose all schemes that will abridge or dilute the precious right to vote. Madam Speaker, I am here today to remind the nation that the right to vote, that "powerful instrument that can break down the walls of injustice," is facing grave threats.

The threat stems from the decision issued in June 2013 by the Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 193 (2013), which invalidated Section 4(b) of the VRA, and paralyzed the application of the VRA's Section 5 preclearance requirements. According to the Supreme Court majority, the reason for striking down Section 4(b) was that "times change." Now, the Court was right; times have changed. But what the Court did not fully appreciate is that the positive changes it cited are due almost entirely to the existence and vigorous enforcement of the Voting Rights Act. And that is why the Voting Rights Act is still needed. Let me put it this way: in the same way that the vaccine invented by Dr. Jonas Salk in 1953 eradicated the crippling effects but did not eliminate the cause of polio, the Voting Rights Act succeeded in stymieing the practices that resulted in the wholesale disenfranchisement of African Americans and language minorities but did eliminate them entirely.

The Voting Rights Act is needed as much today to prevent another epidemic of voting disenfranchisement as Dr. Salk's vaccine is still needed to prevent another polio epidemic. However, officials in some states, notably Texas and North Carolina, seemed to regard the Shelby decision as a green light and